

IN HONOR OF CHARLES W. BAUER

**HON. PETE SESSIONS**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 11, 2005*

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my former Chief of Staff for Texas Operations, Charles "Chuck" W. Bauer, who recently left my office. Chuck has been at my side for the last 11 years, starting with grassroots outreach, then on to handle legislative issues in my Washington, DC office before returning back to Texas to run my Dallas district office. Chuck has provided experienced judgment and advice to his fellow staff members and me for years, and his tireless work ethic will be greatly missed. I have come to appreciate and value his keen ability to lead by example and facilitate smooth flowing district operations for so many years.

Chuck graduated with a bachelor of science degree in political science in 1993 from Texas Christian University in Fort Worth, Texas and he received his masters of business administration from the McCombs School of Business at the University of Texas earlier this year.

Chuck and his wonderful wife have two children, Abbey (3) and Hayden (6 months). I wish the entire Bauer family all the best for Chuck's next endeavor. I thank him for his great service to the people of the 32nd Congressional District of Texas.

Even though he will no longer be employed by the Congress, I will always be able to call him my dear friend. I am sure that the great Chuck Bauer will continue to impress those around him in his new line of work.

IN RECOGNITION OF MARY WEST

**HON. JOHN T. SALAZAR**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 11, 2005*

Mr. SALAZAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Mary West, the 2005 recipient of the Disney Teacher award. Ms. West is a special needs high school teacher in Montrose, Colorado. In this capacity, she teaches students what they need to know to function in their community. Working with students as old as 21, she is often times the last teacher these students will have before they enter the adult world.

It is an honor and a privilege to have a teacher of Mary West's caliber in my district. Ms. West's dedication exemplifies the kind of steadfast determination and drive I grew up with in Colorado. As one of only 45 winners selected out of more than 50,000 nominees, Ms. West, and her school, will receive upwards of \$15,000 from the Walt Disney Company for use in maintaining this high quality of education at Montrose High School.

Education is about the future, about making our dreams for a better tomorrow a reality. Family values, a good education, these are the foundation on which that future ought to rest. What more could we possibly want for our children than the opportunity to see their dreams, large or small, come true. More than simply watching our children succeed though, this foundation allows us to take pride in knowing that their success is not due to luck, but rather to their own ability to make something of themselves.

We therefore have a responsibility to ensure our children enter that future with the best

education possible. Teachers, like Mary West, are putting these seemingly incredible dreams within reach. So, it is my hope that you will join with me in congratulating Ms. West on her accomplishments. With the help of Ms. West and other dedicated teachers throughout Colorado, I feel confident that today's youth will be prepared to accept the challenges and the possibilities of tomorrow.

TRIBUTE TO LINDA GRAHAM  
WARD

**HON. KEN CALVERT**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 11, 2005*

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to Linda Graham Ward, who retired on June 17, 2005 after thirty three years as a teacher in the Ocean View School District of Huntington Beach, California.

Linda G. Ward is a fantastic teacher who truly cares for her students. She has dedicated her 33 years of teaching to improving the quality of life of her students by teaching them Fitness for Life. Her greatest career achievements include not only saving the lives of several students, but teaching students how to live healthier lives through physical fitness. She inspired her students to go on to become Olympians, professional athletes, and teachers.

Linda was born and raised in El Centro, California. Her love of learning lead her to the University of Southern California where she earned her teaching credential in 1972. That fall she began her long career with the Ocean View School District teaching Physical Education and Science. Her campus assignments took her to the Rancho View School, the Vista View Middle School and the Spring View Middle School. She kept learning as well and earned a master's degree in kinesiology in 1973.

At each campus she served as a teacher, coach and mentor to her students. She coached volleyball, basketball, track, cross country, softball and soccer. She was the Mentor Teacher for Ocean View School District Physical Education Program and Developed and implemented the Ocean View School District's Physical Fitness Program for Grades 6, 7 and 8. Linda went above and beyond the normal teaching role to inspire her students to live a fit and healthy lifestyle. She created the Ocean View School District's Physical Fitness Awards Program based on Olympic Games model to recognize students' achievements and implemented the California Fitness Testing Program in Ocean View School District.

She made remarkable strides in improving the health of her students by becoming a CPR Instructor for the Ocean View School District and teaching students and employees how to save lives. Linda also served as Physical Education expert and advisor to Orange County Grand Jury investigation regarding childhood obesity. She also wrote, obtained and expended PEP grant funds in the amount of \$472,000 to implement the SPARK Program for physical fitness in her district. For her efforts Linda was named the Most Inspirational Teacher in the Ocean View School District, an award she certainly deserves.

For over three decades Linda G. Ward has been educating and motivating the young people of Southern California. She has indeed

made a positive difference in thousands of lives and earned my many thanks. I wish her all the best in her future endeavors.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. TOM COLE**

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 11, 2005*

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, on June 30, 2005, I was unavoidably detained during a vote on H. Res. 344. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on rollcall vote 316.

HONORING U.S. ARMY CORPORAL  
PHILLIP C. EDMUNDSON

**HON. G. K. BUTTERFIELD**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 11, 2005*

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember U.S. Army CPL Phillip Charles Edmundson, of my hometown of Wilson, NC, for serving our country during Operation Iraqi Freedom. Corporal Edmundson made the ultimate sacrifice for our country when he died on June 1, 2005 when an improvised explosive device detonated near his Bradley Fighting Vehicle during combat operations. He was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 9th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Infantry Division, Fort Carson, CO. He was just 22 years old.

Corporal Edmundson was the first person from my community to die in combat since Vietnam. While we are saddened at this great loss, we are so honored to claim Corporal Edmundson as the product of our community.

Corporal Edmundson had re-enlisted while in Iraq and was scheduled to be promoted to sergeant. During his funeral service, Corporal Edmundson was awarded a Bronze Star and Purple Heart posthumously for his bravery and dedicated service.

It was my honor to represent U.S. Army CPL Phillip Charles Edmundson and to have a friendship with his parents, Robert Edmundson and Anne Edmundson. I extend my deepest sympathies to his family and friends. He will be deeply missed and his service was greatly appreciated.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to submit for the RECORD a poem by CPL Phillip Charles Edmundson.

## A SOLDIER'S REFLECTIONS

I was that which others did not want to be.  
I went where others feared to go  
and did what others failed to do.

I asked nothing from those who gave nothing  
and reluctantly accepted the thought of eternal loneliness . . .

Should I fail, I have seen the face of terror;  
Felt the stinging cold of fear;  
and enjoyed the sweet taste of a moment's love.

I have cried, pained, and hoped . . .  
but most of all, I have lived times others would say

were best forgotten. At least someday  
I will be able to say that I was proud of what I was . . .

"A Soldier".

—CPL Phillip Charles Edmundson